



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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Public Comment

Date May 18, 1998

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program welcomes your participation. Please use the space below for your written comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Comments:

Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting over.
We have been fighting over water since the Gold Rush. As
more people come to California, the fighting will get
worse. We have chosen to ship water from where it exists
to where we want it. Along the way we have degraded land
and water, as well as the animals dependent upon them -
and we are some of those animals.

Where has this water been moved? Largely for the
benefit of large corporate landowners labelled as farmers.
At taxpayer expense water is transported to arid regions
for the purpose of raising water-intensive crops on marginal
land. In exchange the water is polluted and flushed back
into existing waterways to further pollute their ultimate destiny:
the ocean. The rationalization is jobs, but have we calcu-
lated the jobs lost in fisheries and tourism as water is moved
elsewhere? Do we want jobs at the expense of our future?
over

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But what is proposed are three option of ditch-digging backed up by larger dams. At this public hearing, most discussion was around proposal 3, the Son Of Peripheral Canal. Moving water merely postpones the hard choices we must make. The real problems are allocating a scarce resource among a greedy and simple populace. We must stop the benefit to the few at the expense of many.

While none of the three proposals addresses these issues, proposal 1 is the smallest and most acceptable.